

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and a method for providing an emulated network
5 including a plurality of emulated networking devices, in
which a number of network node executable images are
employed. Each of the network node executable images
corresponds to one of the emulated networking devices. The
emulated networking devices represent physical networking
10 devices, such as optical switches. A portion of each of the
network node executable images is operable to execute
without modification on a physical networking device. Each
of the network node executable images includes a number of
program components, such as a topology related program
15 component for maintaining a representation of the topology
of the emulated network, a trunk manager program component
for maintaining at least one emulated trunk between the
corresponding emulated networking device and an adjacent
other emulated networking device, and a circuit manager
20 program component operable to maintain at least one emulated
circuit between the corresponding emulated networking device
and another one of the emulated networking devices. Various
numbers of network node executable images may be executed on
a single emulator machine, and multiple emulator machines
25 may be employed to execute a single network node executable
image.

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